



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GRABOWSKI ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN  
Serial No.: 09/939,523 Group Art Unit: 3732  
Filed: AUGUST 24, 2001 Docket: 6683.64US01  
Confirmation No.: 2437  
Due Date: December 27, 2002 (30 Day Date)  
Title: BONE FIXATION DEVICE

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 11, 2002.

By: Judith Tess  
Name:

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC 18 2002

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

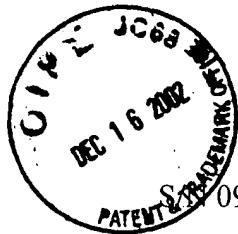
- Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 4 Reference(s), Copy of International Search Report
- Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By: Nancy J. Parsons  
Name: Nancy J. Parsons  
Reg. No.: 40,364  
NParsons:JJW:PSTjt





09/939,523

PATENT #6  
P. J. B. 12/31/02

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dear Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were recently cited in an International Search Report mailed November 27, 2002.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, no patent term adjustment is due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy

of the International Search Report. Applicants note references US 6,193,721 B1 and WO 99/56653 also listed in the search report were previously cited to or by the Examiner.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P. O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

Date 12/11/02

  
Nancy J. Parsons  
Reg. No. 40,364  
NJP:JJW:PSTjt

